



ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

News Release

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CITY OF SAN DIEGO TRASH TRUCK DRIVER TO COMPETE FOR SECOND YEAR IN A ROW AT INTERNATIONAL "ROAD-E-O"

SAN DIEGO, CA— Spring Valley resident Ron Garcia, a City of San Diego trash truck driver, hopes to walk away with the top spot this summer in a prestigious refuse-truck driving contest among top drivers from Canada and the United States. Last year he placed a respectful third in the international competition.

Garcia will compete in the International Road-E-O to be held this August at Coco Beach, Florida. More than 100 heavy-vehicle drivers from 10 states are expected to register for the annual competition, according to the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA), which organizes the event. SWANA is a professional organization of the solid waste industry with forty-six chapters throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Garcia, a 22-year City employee who works for the City's Environmental Services Department, earned a chance to compete in the international contest by placing second at the regional competition held June 8, 2002 in Long Beach. Drivers from San Diego, Los Angeles, Santa Monica and Oxnard participated in the event. To be chosen for international competition, drivers must have scored in the top two spots in the regionals, and have had no accidents charged against them within the past 12 months.

Garcia competes in the automated side-loader division. Side loaders are 28-ton trash packers with automated arms that grasp and empty trash containers. The Road-E-O competition, however, tests driving skills.

The automated side-loader event features seven driving trials including "alley backup" and "serpentine." Additionally, drivers must spot planted vehicle defects during the pre-trip inspection test. Alley backup tests drivers' precision in backing their trucks in a simulated alley. In serpentine, drivers must accurately maneuver around tight areas formed by barrels. Other trials test accurate right-hand turns, parallel parking skills, and precise stopping.

The City of San Diego's Environmental Services Department is charged with refuse collection and disposal, recycling and environmentally sound landfill management to meet the City's long-term disposal needs. The Department also oversees the City's management of energy use and explores innovative options for energy independence. For more information on recycling or Environmental Services, visit the department's web site at <http://www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services/index.shtml> .###